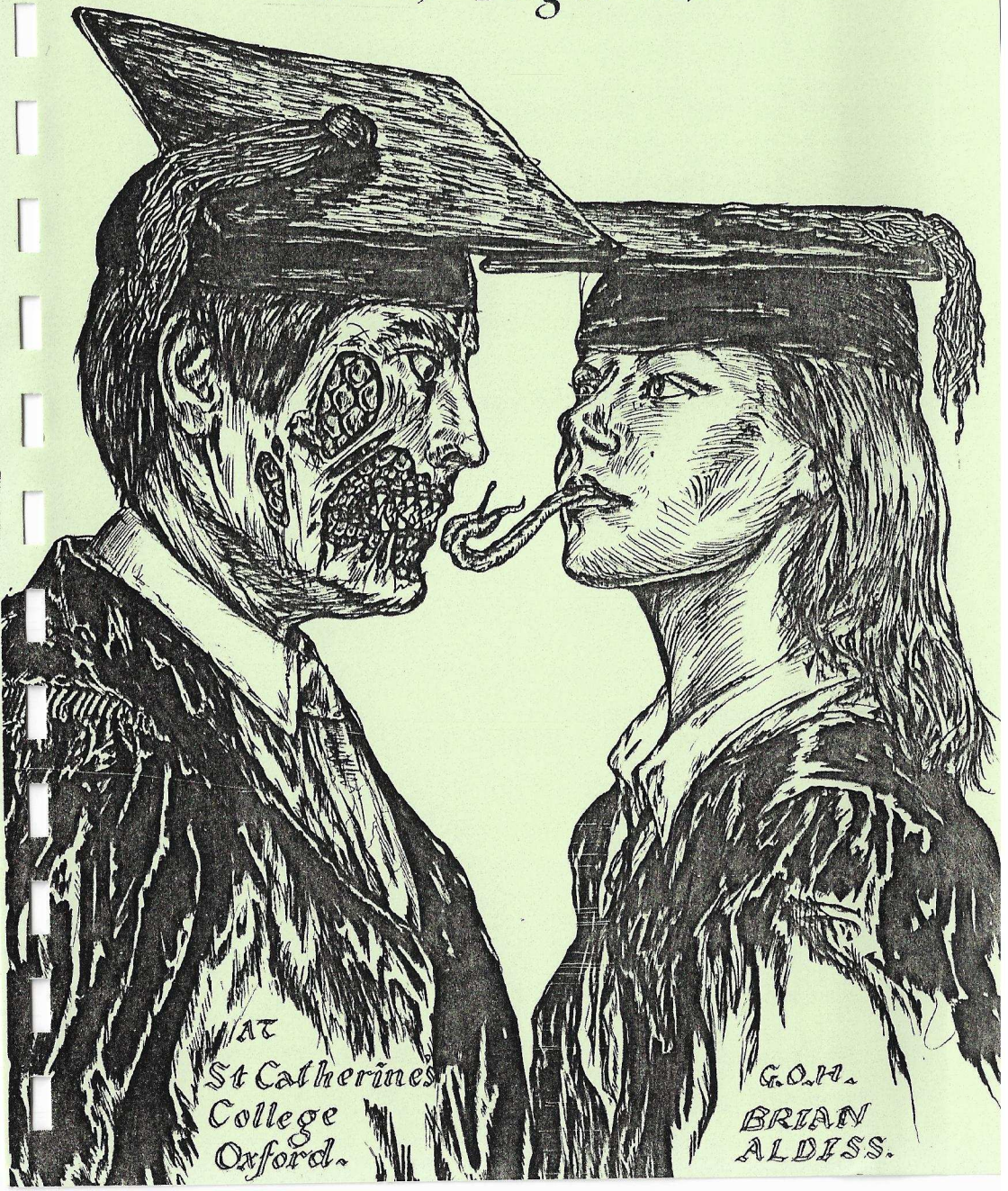
# OXCON '84

is Unicon 5

24th - 27th August 1984.



# BRIAN aldiss

***Your guest of honour - our honoured author***

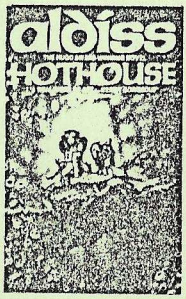
***'The best of British science fiction writers'***

THE SCOTSMAN

***'Mr Aldiss is now in competition with no one but himself'***

NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW

***Read Brian Aldiss's remarkable works in Granada Paperbacks. And don't miss these acclaimed re-issues, coming soon:***

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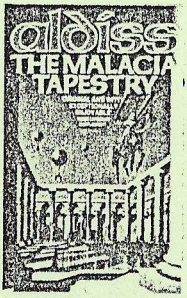


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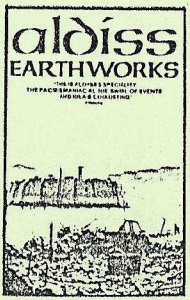


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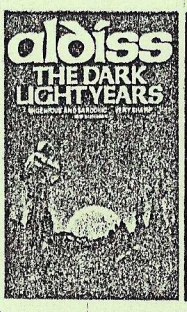
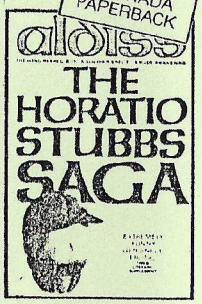



14 FEBRUARY 1985

FIRST TIME IN GRANADA PAPERBACK




14 FEBRUARY 1985

**GRANADA**

# OXCON 84 SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION.

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# Introduction.

If you are reading this in a Pit then congratulations. You have managed to navigate the dark waters of the Thames or arrived by other means in Oxford. Home for this weekend of what we hope will be a convention to remember;

## OXCON 84!

To those of you attending your first convention we welcome you and hope that you discover, as most of us have that conventions are basically FUN. Yes people may indeed huddle in corners to discuss the correct devotions to please Akha or they may be discussing the merits or not of wool and nylon socks when it comes to there adhesion to walls. But whatever the topic of conversation most are intending to enjoy themselves and to this aim we hope that you will find something to suit your tastes, amongst our varied program items. Later in this program book you will find a short description of St Catherines college and also a piece on the arangements for that vital convention liquid, alcohol!

For the seasoned, or spiced, convention attendie, also wellcome! You will no doubt find many things familiar from other cons but will also, we hope, find some new ways to enjoy the convention.To those of you who are interested in computers or video then please note that there will be a computer room running for most of the con and also a video room. The times for both will be on the doors and also available from the committee room. If anyone has some video tapes with them then could they please see the committee.

If your tastes lie more in the gaming direction then I would draw your attention to discussion on Sunday afternoon on role playing games. Alternatively if you fancy running a game then you should not have too much difficulty finding some space. The main thing to remember is enjoy yourself and if there are any problems concerning the convention or college then look for a committee member. We will all be wearing painfully bright fluorescent badges to aid those whose eyes are hung over.

However allow me to let you continue exploring this Program Book with the following piece introducing the conventions;

# GUEST OF HONOUR.

## BRIAN W. ALDISS.

Our guest of Honour, is not only a world famous writer, but is also an accomplished Anthologist and a respected critic.

His impressive and growing list of work, includes twenty seven novels to date ( The twenty eighth, Helliconia Winter is due out next year). Translations of his books are available in a total of twenty one languages, including Serbo-Croat & Hebrew.

We are extremely pleased to have Brian Aldiss as our guest, since he is not merely an award winning writer, but is also a Science Fiction Fan of long standing. Indeed he claims a large part of the blame/responsibility for the formation of the local science fiction club. The Oxford University Speculitive Fiction Group. According to Brian, this worthy body was formed at his suggestion, when he finally became tired of fans cluttering up his living room and reading his collection.

Current members of the society ( and the Oxcon committee ) have a sneaky suspicion, that Brians decision to move his household, including five cats and three kittens during the convention may not be entirely disconnected with his recent appearance as guest of honour, at the OUSFG Annual Banquet.

For your education here is a short Curriculum Vitae followed by a bibliographical list of Brians works;

Aldiss, Brian W.

Born in East Dereham, Norfolk, England, 18th August 1925
Education: Mason's Kindergarten, 1930-33
St. Peter's Court Preparatory School, 1933-36
Framlingham College, Suffolk, 1936-39
West Buckland School, Devon, 1939-43

Royal Corps of Signals 1943-47
Bookseller 1948-56
Literary Editor, Oxford Mail 1957-69
Committee of Management, Society of Authors, 1975-78,
Chairman, 1977-78
Arts Council Literature Panel, 1978-80
Chairman, Cultural Exchanges Committee, Society of Authors, 1978-
Founder Member, World SF; President, 1982-
European Representative, Science Fiction Writers of America
Honorary Member, Science Fiction Research Association

Some of the Awards Brian has Won.

Hugo Award: Hothouse, 1962
Nebula Award: The Saliva Tree, 1965
BSFA Award: The Moment of Eclipse, 1972

NOVELS

1. The Brightfount Diaries, 1955
2. Non-Stop, 1958 (as Starship, U.S., 1958)
3. The Male Response, U.S., 1961 (U.K., 1963)
4. Bow Down To Nul, U.S., 1960 (as The Interpreter, U.K., 1961)
5. The Primal Urge, U.S., 1961 (U.K., 1967)
6. Hothouse, 1962 (as Long Afternoon Of Earth, U.S., 1962)
7. Dark Light Years, 1964 (U.S., 1964)
8. Greybeard, 1964 (U.S., 1964)
9. Earthworks, 1965 (U.S., 1966)
10. The Saliva Tree, 1966 (U.S., 1981)
11. An Age, 1967 (as Cryptozoic! , U.S., 1968)
12. Report On Probability A, 1968 (U.S., 1969)
13. A Brian Aldiss Omnibus, 1969
14. Barefoot In The Head, 1969 (U.S., 1970)
15. The Hand-Reared Boy, 1970 (U.S., 1970)
16. A Soldier Erect, 1971 (U.S., 1971)
17. Brian Aldiss Omnibus 2, 1971
18. Frankenstein Unbound, 1973 (U.S., 1973)
19. The Eighty-Minute Hour, 1974 (U.S., 1974)
20. The Malacia Tapestry, 1976 (U.S., 1977)
21. Brothers Of The Head, 1977 (U.S., 1977)
22. A Rude Awakening, 1978 (U.S., 1979)
23. Enemies Of The System, 1978 (U.S., 1978)
24. Life In The West, 1980
25. Moreau's Other Island, 1980 (as An Island Called Moreau, U.S., 1981)
26. Helliconia Spring, 1982 (U.S., 1982)
27. Helliconia Summer, 1983 (U.S., 1983)
28. Helliconia Winter, 1985 (U.S., 1985)

SHORT STORY COLLECTIONS.

Space Time And Nathaniel, 1957
The Canopy of Time, 1959
No Time Like Tomorrow, U.S., 1959 (variant on Space Time & Nathaniel)
Galaxies Like Grains Of Sand, U.S., 1960 (variant on Canopy Of Time)
The Airs of Earth, 1963
Starswarm, U.S., 1964 (variant on Airs Of Earth)
Best SF Stories of Brian W. Aldiss, 1965 (as Who Can Replace A Man?, U.S., 1965)(Revised ed., 1971)
Intangibles Inc., 1969
Neanderthal Planet, U.S., 1970 (variant on Intangibles Inc.)
The Moment Of Eclipse, 1971 (U.S., 1972)

The Book Of Brian Aldiss, U.S., 1972 (as Comic Inferno, 1973)
Last Orders, 1977
New Arrivals, Old Encounters, 1979 (U.S., 1979)
Foreign Bodies, 1981 (published in Singapore)
Seasons in Flight, 1984

NON-FICTION

Cities And Stones: A Traveller's Yugoslavia, 1966
The Shape of Further Things, 1970 (U.S., 1971)
Billion Year Spree: A History of Science Fiction, 1973 (U.S., 1973)
Science Fiction Art, 1975 (U.S., 1975)
This World and Nearer Ones, 19769 (U.S., 1981)
Pile (A poem), 1979 (U.S., 1979)
Farewell to a Child (Poems) 1982

EDITED BY:

Penguin Science Fiction, 1961
More Penguin Science Fiction, 1962
Yet More Penguin Science Fiction, 1964
Penguin SF Omnibus, 1973
Best Fantasy Stories, 1962
Introducing SF, 1964
Nebula Award Stories 11 (with Harry Harrison), U.S., 1967
Farewell Fantastic Venus, 1968 (as All About Venus, U.S., 1968)

Space Opera Series:

Space Opera, 1974, U.S., 1975
Space Odysseys, 1975, U.S., 1976
Evil Earths, 1975
Galactic Empires, 2 vols., 1976, U.S., 1977
Perilous Planets, 1978

GENERAL EDITOR, Penguin Science Fiction, 1962-64

Edited with Harry Harrison

Best SF 1967, 1968 (U.S., 1968)
Best SF 1968, 1969 (U.S., 1969)
Best SF 1969, 1970 (U.S., 1970)
Best SF 1970, 1971 (U.S., 1971)
Best SF 1971, 1972 (U.S., 1972)
Best SF 1972, 1973 (U.S., 1973)
Best SF 1973, 1974 (U.S., 1974)
Best SF 1974, 1975 (U.S., 1975)
Best SF 1975, 1976 (U.S., 1976)
The Astounding/Analog Reader, 2 vols., U.S. 1973
Hell's Cartographers, 1975 (U.S., 1975)

The Decades Series
The 1940s, 1975 (U.S., 1978)
The 1950s, 1976 (U.S., 1978)
The 1960s, 1977

The SF Master Series: 20 titles.

A bibliography of Brians writings, compiled by his wife Margaret and entitled ITEM 83, is available. Also a guide to his work has been published by Borgo Press in California: ALDISS UNBOUND: The Science Fiction of Brian W. Aldiss, by Richard Mathews.
STOP PRESS; The first complete study APERTURES: A Study of the Writings of Brian W. Aldiss, by Brian Griffin and David Wingrove (Greenwood Press, 1984).

BRIAN W. ALDISS

# EXPERIENCE.

Ellen was walking in the mountains. She was fair of hair and face. The wise women of the village said that great fortune would befall her.

As she walked by the Hrolf Glacier, a portion of it collapsed into the stream. Ellen saw that a figure was imprisoned inside the glacier wall. She went closer. A man stared out at her.

Taking a stone, she attacked the ice and freed the man. He was dressed in ancient clothes, with strange boots and tall hat. After a while in the sun, he revived and spoke.

"For a thousand years have I been entrapped in that glacier. I am the Wizard who once lived in the North. What's your name, girl?"

"Ellen."

"Ellen, for your kindness I'll reward you. Answer my riddle and all you want in the world shall be yours. You may have only four guesses at the answer."

She seated herself on a boulder from which she could see her village and the fjord far below. The wizard chanted his riddle:

"I'm brighter than the sun
And embrace all suns.
Men and women will be mine
As long as time runs.
What am I?"

Ellen had just passed her school exams. She jumped up crying,

"The answer must be Hope."

"Not Hope," said the wizard .

Ellen returned to the village. The wizard followed, and eventually found work at the sawmill on the edge of the fjord. After a year passed, Ellen fell in love with Lars, the garage-owner's son. They became engaged.

On the night before their marriage, Ellen lay awake in the small hours, thinking of the riddle and the joys that could be hers. On a sudden impulse, she went to see the wizard at the sawmill.

"Now I'm older and more sensible, I have found the answer to your riddle, sir. The answer, of course, is Love."

"Not Love," said the wizard.

Ellen and Lars were married. They lived in a small house near the fjord, where Ellen was happy. In due time, she gave birth to a son. Lars worked longer hours at the garage to support the growing family.

Two years later, Ellen was about to give birth to a second child. She went to see the wizard.

"I'm older and wiser now, sir, and I have the answer to your riddle. The answer, I believe, is Motherhood."

"Not Motherhood," said the wizard.

Ellen was angry. She thought that there was little of the wizard's magic left in the modern world. Otherwise, he would be more prosperous. But she put such reflections aside and gave birth to a second son.

Lars was pleased, and bought a boat so that they could sail along the fjord.

They lived contentedly. Both boys grew up strong and intelligent. But one Sunday, when Lars was out fishing alone in his boat, a storm came down from the mountains, the boat was sunk, and Lars drowned.

What grief overwhelmed Ellen! She faced the tragic side of life for the first time. In her sorrow, she thought of the old wizard.

Taking her sons with her, she walked to the sawmill.

"This is your last chance to answer the riddle," croaked the wizard. "I don't know the solution. Get it right and you'll set us both free."

So then Ellen took a deep breath and said, "I'm really older and wiser, sir, but I still don't know the answer, unless it could be...

Creation?"

At the mention of the magic word, there was a flash of light. The dingy sawmill momentarily resembled a palace.

Ellen blinked. The wizard had vanished. In his place stood Lars - a little damp but nevertheless the living Lars! He was restored to her, and she had all she wanted in the world.

Except one thing. She no longer had something to hope for in the small hours of the night.

Brian W. Aldiss

## Those Responsible:

Right this is where writing this program book becomes fun and the lies, scandal and other previously unknown facts about the committee are dug up.

## Hugh P Mascetti:

Instigator of this convention when many years ago ( about two actually ) he suggested to a bunch of drunken lunatics, this committee, wouldn't it be a good idea to hold an SF con in Oxford!

Hobbies: Drinking and propelling lumps of lead towards a target preferably with the help of explosives.
When not invovled with Oxcon or shooting he is training to be a teacher.

## Mary Wheatcroft:

As the only member of the committee with a calculator firmly secured to her wrist Mary was recruited to the post of treasurer. The esteem with which she is regarded was also greatly increased recently when it was noticed that she seemed fully familar with a certain nectar known as Polish Wodka.

Hobbies: Drinking

Mary is also training to become a Doctor though some of the committee may decline her professional services until we find out what she is learning in Africa later this year!!

## John Stewart:

Was recruited to the committe because of his Beccon connections

Hobbies: Drinking and Playing with P.A. gear.

## Keith Clements:

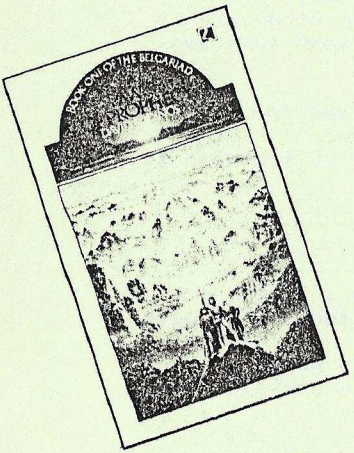
Otherwise known, for arcane reasons, as Keith the Green. Has been reading SF for as long as he can remember and began to take a more active interest in SF while at University (studying Psychology). His first con was Cymrucon 81.

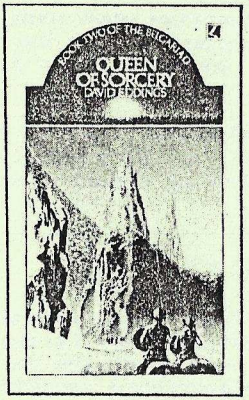
Hobbies: Drinking, reading SF, playing games and working for Oxcon.
A man of simple ambitions: He wants to rule the world.

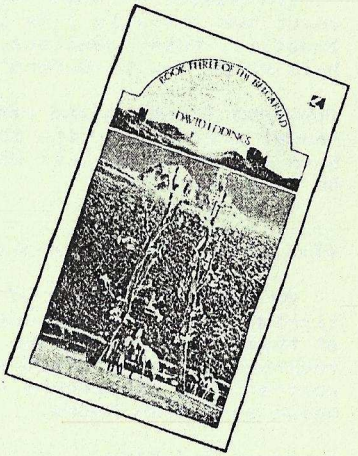
# CORGI PRESENTS A

## THE BELGARIAD
## David Eddings

**A magical saga of immense scope set against a history of seven thousand years, of the struggles of Gods and Kings and of ordinary mortals – of strange lands and extraordinary events and of a fate and prophecy that must be fulfilled . . .**

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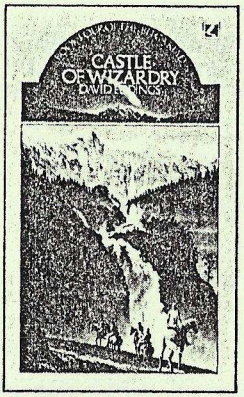


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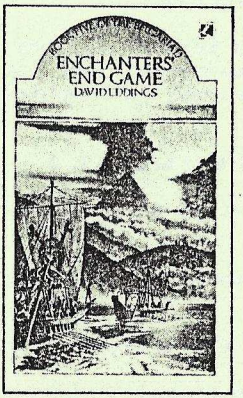


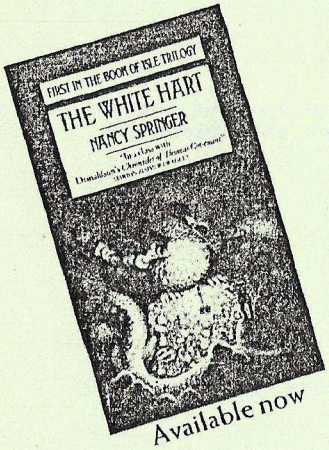

Coming in
February '85

"They're good. In fact they're fabulous. More! More! More!"
ANNE McCAFFREY

# WORLD OF FANTASY

## THE BOOK OF ISLE TRILOGY
## Nancy Springer

**A major new science-fantasy talent with a feast for the imagination, a legend brought vividly to life. Reach back to the magical land of Isle and enter a world of enchantment and sorcery . . .**

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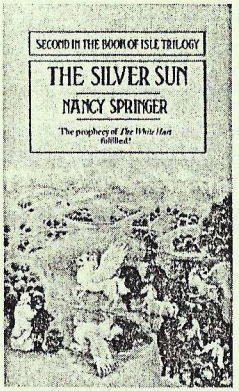


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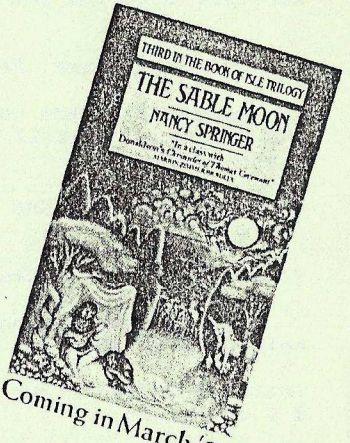
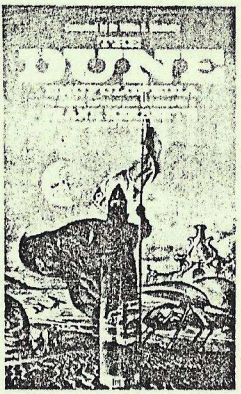
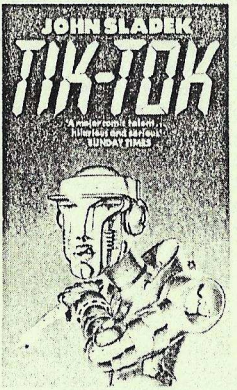



Coming in March '85

"In a class with Donaldson's 'Chronicles of Thomas Covenant'."
MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY




Available from October 26th




Authorised and introduced by Frank Herbert, this companion guide to the Dune chronicles contains 11,000 indexed and cross-referenced entries.
Eight years in the making, this definitive work reveals the world of this sci-fi phenomenon.

What happens to a robot whose circuits go wrong and who becomes criminally inclined?
He enters politics of course!
Winner of the 1984 British SF Association Best Novel Award.

## David Power

A man who has been most useful as the committees man on the spot, being the only committee member actually to live in Oxford the year round. He has had cause to regret this but suitable doses of alcohol have kept him going.

Hobbies; Drinking and D & D.

## Catherine Watson.

Recruited to the committee to act as our mailing address she has found herself becoming quite expert at deciphering spider scrawl.

Hobbies; Drinking and working for Oxcon.

## Gary Stratmann.

Gary has been organising the films for the con aswell as helping with the PRs.

Hobbies; Drinking and working for Oxcon when not fighting D & D campaigns.

A number of other people and organisations have helped in the preparations for this convention and we would like to thank especially the following;

Barbara Rochford.
Stuart Aston.
David Grandidge
Brian Ameringen
Roger Perkins
Mike & Kathy Westhead
Carol Paxton
Mike Figg
Maureen Porter

FRIDAY 24th AUGUST 1984. OXCON DAY ONE.

| Time | Main Programme |
|---|---|
| 1900 | Defining a Fan |
| 2000 | The Convention Opening Ceremony |
| 2030 | Destination Moon; A Film |
| 2200 | Call my Bluff |
| 2300 | The Astral Lugue Intiation Ceremony; Open to all comers! |

SATURDAY 25th AUGUST 1984. OXCON DAY TWO.

| Time | Main Programme |
|---|---|
| 1000 | The Day the Earth Stood Still; A Film |
| 1100 | The Leaky Establishment. A Lecture by David Langford |
| 1200 | LUNCH & Liquid refreshment. |
| 1400 | Silly Readings |
| 1500 | Guest of Honour Speech by Brian Aldiss |
| 1630 | Twenty Questions; A silly game |
| 1730 | A Grand Auction with Brianm Ameringen as Auctioneer |
| 1900 | Just a Minute |
| 2000 | Exclalbur; A Film |
| 2230 | Charades till late! |

SUNDAY 26th AUGUST 1984. OXCON DAY THREE.

| Time | Main Programme |
|---|---|
| 1000 | The Fall and Rise of Comics; A Discussion. |
| 1100 | Role Playing Games a Discussion |
| 1230 | A Break for Lunch |
| 1400 | A signing session; Brian will autograph your |

copies of his books.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1500 | Wizards ;A Film. |
| 1630 | Society and the Stars; A Discussion |
| 1730 | UNICON BUSINESS MEETING |
| 1830 | University Challenge |
| 1945 | A Break for Dinner |
| 2100 | Future SF a Written Medium?; A discussion. |
| 2145 | Fancy Dress in the Pit |
| 2230 | Party/Disco till late!! |

MONDAY 27th AUGUST 1984. OXCON DAY FOUR.

| Time | Main Programme |
|---|---|
| 0900 | Lectures;<br>Medicine in S.F. & How not design weapons. |
| 1000 | Panel on S.F. ART by B.Aldiss. |
| 1130 | Android; A Film |
| 1300 | The Closing ceromony |
| 1330 | Some film reruns. |

# "I LOVE SF FOR ITS...

SURREALIST VERVE, ITS LOONEY NON-REALITY, ITS PIERCING TRUTHS, ITS WIT, ITS MASKED MELANCHOLY, ITS NOSE FOR DAMNATION, ITS BUNKUM, ITS CONTEMPT FOR HOME COMFORTS, ITS SLEWED ASTRONOMY, ITS XENOPHILIA, ITS HIP, ITS CLASSLESSNESS, ITS MYSTERIOUS MACHINES, ITS GAUDY BACKDROPS, ITS TRAGIC INSECURITY."

**From the foreword by Brian Aldiss**

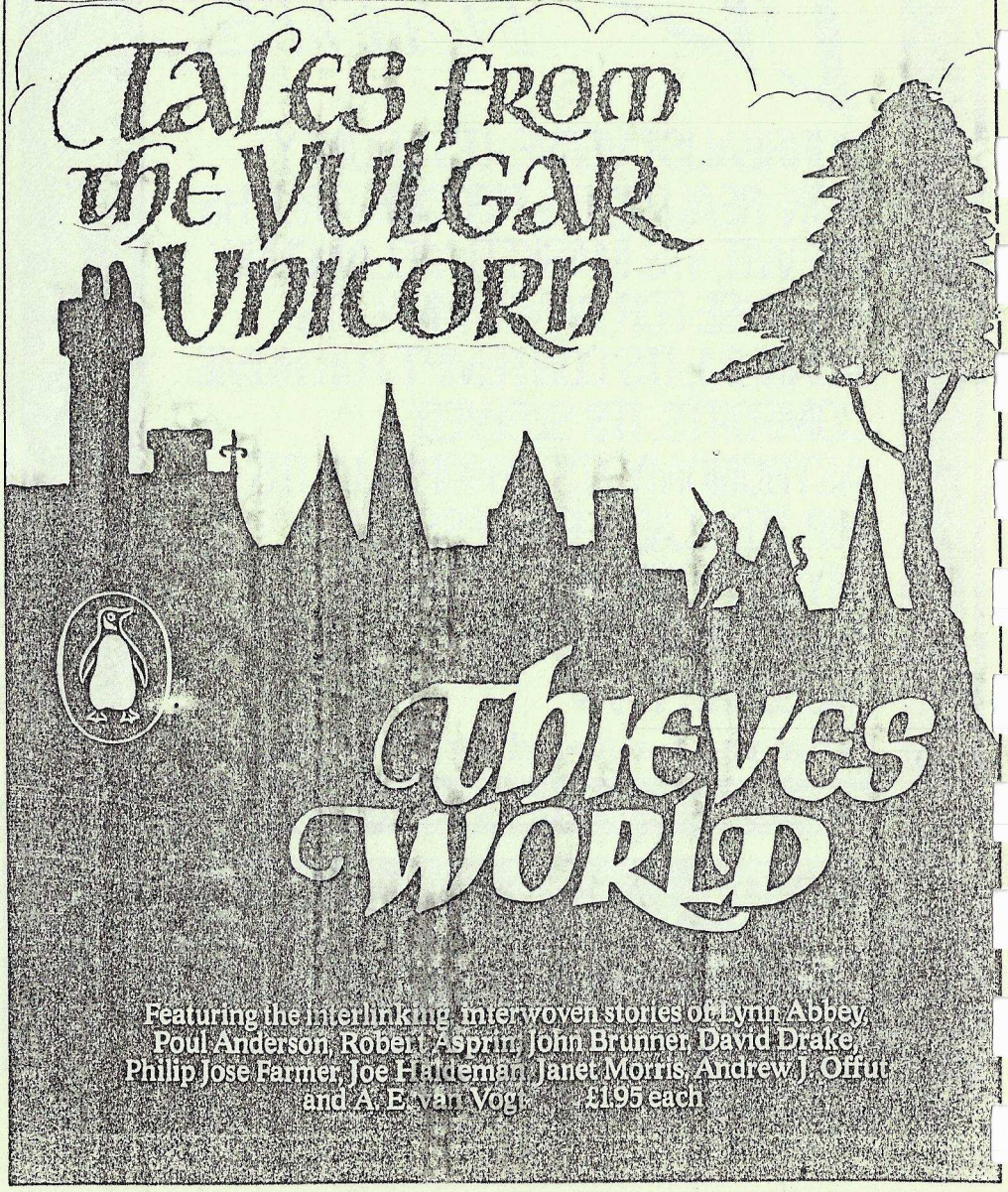
**The Science Fiction Source Book**

**Edited by David Wingrove**

**Published 3 September 1984 £8.95**

**Longman**

Let us introduce you to a new world. A world of myth and magic, mystery and mayhem. A world peopled by thieves and harlots, slaves, swordsmen and sorcerers. A world forged out of the imaginations of ten of the top SF and Fantasy writers around. A world of wonders. The world of Sanctuary . . .




Featuring the interlinking interwoven stories of Lynn Abbey, Poul Anderson, Robert Asprin, John Brunner, David Drake, Philip Jose Farmer, Joe Haldeman, Janet Morris, Andrew J. Offut and A. E. van Vogt. £1.95 each

St Catherines College.

St Catherines was chosen because unlike most Oxford colleges, it has all the facilities necessary for a convention. Most of the Colleges were built several hundred years ago and its difficult to find room for lecture theatres, bars, meeting rooms etcetera.

St Catherines, on the other hand, was designed in the sixties, and has a number of advantages for a convention. It has a first class lecture hall, the Benard Sunley, which will house most of our main programme items. It has a large open plan bar complex, where some of our less formal events will take place. The study bedrooms are usually regarded as being releatively comfortable, by college standards. The college has an extensive car park, and parking is always at a premium in Oxford, especially over a Bank Holiday. It is also off the terrorist ( sorry tourist ) route, and in Oxford over the summer that is an absolute necessatity.

Oxford.

Oxfords site, at the confluence of the Cherwell and Isis, where they consider the possibility of becoming the Thames. Its main products are Graduates and British Leyland cars. Unlike some University towns, it is large enough to ensure that the University is not the sole dominant influence in its life. The Colleges and other University buildings are largely confined to a small area at the centre, about 3/4 of a mile square. The concentration of buildings of architectural interest in this part of town is impressive, and it's well worth wandering around for an hour or so. there are also a large number of reasonably good pubs in the town centre, with a worthwhile selection of beers. The local brew is Morrell's, their bitter is undistinguished but pleasant:- their heavy bitter, Morrels Varsity, is good if well kept, but is easily ruined.

The nearest Pubs to the college are, by a happy chance, some of the best and cluster around the junction between Broad Street and Park Road. The Kings Arms is a large pub with lots of beers, and a lot of little rooms to hide in. The Turf Tavern is a small pub with lots of beer and a large garden. Both have very good food. Ask a committee member for directions, or better still take one with you.

As well as being a good place for drinking, Oxford is also a good place for eating. The resturant guide will go into this in detail ( Please see the seperate sheet. ) but I'll make a personnal comment. The Queens Lane Coffee house ( actually in High Street ) provides goodcheap sandwiches and Greek rolls if your in a hurry. Avoid the hamburger vans - known locally as Deathburgers - but the baked potato

vans are good. The Sorbonne, one of Oxfords best restuarants has a "Routier"style downstairs room, where they serve excellent French food - about a fiver for two or three courses. If you want to go over the top, try La Cantina di Capri - the food is interesting, the atmosphere friendly and the service attentive. Between the two extremes there are a wide variety of places to eat, offering pub grub, pasta, beefburgers and almost anything else. There is also, if your desperate a Berni.

One of the standard Oxford recreations is punting, and we heartly reccomend that you try it; preferably while someone has a camera on you. Punts are available from three sources;
Foley Bridge, just south of Magdelan college.
Magdelan Bridge, near Magdelan college.
The Cherwell boathouse, north of St Catherines.

A final word of warning; Oxford over the summer bank holidayis going to be swarming with camera clicking tourists from all over the world. They will spend most of their time blocking the college lodges and generally getting in the way. St Catherines is however not on their route, so it is possible to avoid them!

## FILMS.

Below you will find listed the films that we are showing during this convention together with a brief comment on them.

### EXCALIBUR

Starring Nigel Terry, Nicol Williamson, Helen Mivien, Nicholas Clay and Cherie Lunghi.

The most recent film of the Arthurian Cycle, a suberb adventure story , stunningly filmed in Ireland. Excellent Battle sequences and a delightful portrayol of Merlin.

### WIZARDS

Excellent animated feature, made as a experiment for the techniques used in the Lord of the Rings, this film lacks some of the polish but is much more humerous and dramatic.

### DESTINATION MOON.

Early "American in Space" film suffering from baanal

characters, it is still interesting as a period piece of special effects and early concepts of space flight.

## THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL.

Classic "Close Encounters" film. One of the few of the the period that had the "Aliens are nice people" message and easily one of the best science fiction films ever made.

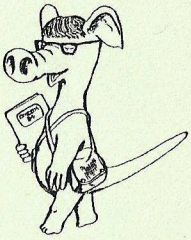
## THE HUMANOID.

Richard Kiel, pre James Bond,. An army of Alien Monsters attack Earth. All the rest of the film follows the standard plot line.

## DOOMWATCH

Feature film produced following the success of the popular T.V. series of the seventies. A team of two (Ian Bannen and Judy Geeson) are sent to a remote island to investigate pollution and discover something rather more sinister than mucky beaches.

# *the* Gameskeeper

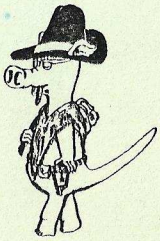


er, basically this is an advertisement for the local games shop. That's its name up there. Oh yes, and the address and phone number basically at the bottom. It won't be open on Sunday or Monday but there's lots of other things to do then isn't there?

It's quite a nice little walk down there really. Along the scenic High, across historic Magdalen Bridge and along er picturesque Cowley Road. Just a mile from Carfax.

What's there? Well nothing special really. Just a lot of wargames and role playing games and miniatures and stuff like that.

However, during Oxcon, if you are wearing your badge and if you have found the secret word hidden in this ad you'll get an enormous discount - well some anyway.



105 COWLEY ROAD OXFORD TEL: 721348

# AUTOGRAPHS